

## **Lakewood Community Relations Commission (LCRAC)**

Virtual Meeting December 10, 2020

Attendees: Camille Bragg, Neil Chavan, Rachel Donaldson, Melissa Garrett, Tracy Greenberg, Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers, Jasany Jenkins, Anastasia (Stacy) Loejos, Ella Sutcliffe, Walter Wright

Absent: Tariq Ata, Robin Beavers, Jon Gromek, Lise Stevens

Meeting called to order by Walter Wright (WW), Chair of LCRAC at 6:34 p.m.

### **1. Old Business**

- a. Minutes Approval: Corrections were suggested and applied to November 2020 minutes (addition of suggestion of approaching larger businesses for reimagined Diversity Potluck event). Tracy Greenberg (TG) motioned to approve the revised minutes, Rachel Donaldson (RD) seconded the motion. All present approved.
- b. COVID-19 Update: Melissa Garrett (MG) said case numbers continue to increase and the next 21 days are crucial to slow spread of virus. Mayor George and the City continue to monitor the situation.
- c. Task Force Update: Jasany Jenkins (JJ) reported that the first meeting of the Anti-Racism Task Force is on December 14, 2020 and Toni Gelsomino will be the city's staff liaison.
- d. Youth Council Update: MG said that the Youth Council has interviewed 10 candidates vying for six openings and will meet next week for final selections. The full council will meet at the beginning of 2021 with all new members. WW asked if other cities are doing this and MG said that other cities have approached Lakewood about task forces and the youth council. Former Mayor Summers introduced the initiative after discussion at a national conference of mayors.

### **2. Community Mask Wearing Promotion**

Ella Sutcliffe (ES) led discussion, indicating the purpose was to increase mask wearing in a positive light. TG also added to the discussion. Ideas included creating a design by tapping into Lakewood's creative community of artists, using the arts as a vehicle for expression with the inclusion of graphics, art, music, poetry. Stacy Loejos (SL) also had suggestions such as T-shirt designs and working with businesses and ES spoke with Councilman Jason Schachner about the idea. MG noted that the City does not have a budget for such a program and that there are certain legalities involved but that the Mayor is enthusiastic about spreading the mask message and has also been working with state-supplied directives and promotional materials. WW asked about possibility of not producing an actual mask but just the design. RD

suggested that due to limitations, perhaps scale back on vision and focus on visual or posters. GHS suggested that the designs could be posted in shop and home windows and TG suggested a tagline contest. SL also likes ideas as a first step and said that people could print the images at home and post either virtually or in windows. WW asked ES to speak with contacts at LakewoodAlive.

### 3. Community Outreach Survey Status

- a. Review and Discuss Progress Jon Gromek (JG) was absent; ES summarized that JG is asking each member to reach out to a few organizations by January 18, 2021 and has sent out a detailed email to all LCRAC members with instructions and google doc links. RD asked for a list of survey questions. WW will follow up with JG for clarification.
- b. Timeline: The survey is expected to launch by the end of January with results expected by the end of March 2021.

### 4. Virtual Diversity Potluck 2021

Camille Bragg (CB) summarized the current status of event planning. JG sent an email to LCRAC members. Proposed ideas include PDF cookbook with recipes submissions representative of heritage, culture, or personal meaning. ES asked about including local restaurants and informing them about a Take Out/Stay In program. MG said that there are a few ways to contact business owners such as through the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor's business task force. WW noted that as we do not have a budget for this event, we will need alternate methods of promotion such as social media. SL will create an event through Facebook. SL also suggested a Diversity Week rather than just one day. CB agreed that it would be more effective. JJ asked about Google Docs or Slides with accessible links for the cookbook. MG will follow up on CB's question of copyright concerns. TG wants a hashtag so that people can tag videos on YouTube, Facebook, or other social media outlets.

### 5. 2019 & 2020 Annual Report to City

Tracy Greenberg (TG) reported on current progress that she and Lise Stevens (LS) have made. They will add December 2020 minutes to complete the 2020 report. WW asked MG to secure a date for placement on the docket for City Council.

## 6. Announcements

SL mentioned that Operation Welcome Mat, an refugee-aid organization she heads, is collecting 9V batteries for smoke detectors and that more information may be found on their Instagram and Facebook pages. RD informed members of a Lakewood High School-sponsored community outreach donation drive on Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

## 7. Adjournment

CB motioned to adjourn; Neil Chavan (NC) seconded the motion. WW adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

## Upcoming LCRAC Meetings:

January 14, 2021

February 11, 2021

March 11, 2021

Minutes prepared by GHS